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SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN MEDIA REACTION TO U.S. SPACE POLICY

¶1. The following are excerpts from two recent media articles.
Neither indicate that the Brazilians are contemplating a closer
relationship with the United States in issues relating to space.

"The Masters of Space", Correio Brasiliense, October 22, 2006

The United States made public its first space policy reform in ten
years this month...The changes not only limit space access to the
nations that are allies to the North American government, but also
sets guidelines so that no international treaty imposes any limits
on Washington's actions on the sector....

The details of the new policy...are still confidential, but the
document points out the growing importance to the U.S. of
maintaining its dominance in space...its armies depend more and more
on navigation and communication systems by satellite, cell phones,
service companies such as GPS and even technology for data
transmission....

The ... United States has been losing its influence (in space
exploration)... since 2003, when the Columbia accident ...delayed
NASA's work. Russia took over the top position for space
transportation. For example, the Brazilian astronaut Marcos Cesar
Pontes, trained for eight years in the American Agency, but went to
space on a Russian rocket....

The document ...practically confirms that the country will ...
develop and put weapons in space,...and rekindle ...hostility in the
aerospace sector, interrupting a cooperation phase that built the
International Space Station, but could lead back to the Cold War.

¶2. A second article indicated that AEB, the Brazilian Space Agency,
wants Brazil to partner in Europe's Galileo program and that
official negotiations are scheduled soon to begin. The article
indicated that the final decision would be made by the new Brazilian
president

"Country initiates official negotiations to participate in the
Galileo positioning system", Folha de Sao Paulo, October 19, 2006

Raimundo Mussi, manager of the Galileo Program in Brazil and the
Technical Scientific Coordinator of the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB)
said that Brazil "has three main objectives,...one is linked to the
program's universe of applications, another to scientific
development and the third to industrial issues. We are talking of
using data from Galileo for everything from our transport systems up
to putting Brazilian industries on an international circuit." he
said. INPE Director Gilberto Camara is quoted as saying "the
participation of Brazil in Galileo is extremely important. I see
this as extremely positive...It is always important, in terms of
strategy, to have access to a system that could function, in the
future, as a type of alternative to GPS, which was originally
created by the North Americans for military uses." In the first

phase, Brazil will not have any costs for participating in Galileo.

SOBEL